

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 26 and 27 were allowed and claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-25 were rejected. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 26 and 27. By the present Response, claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26 have been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-27 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldner, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,927,384, in view of Padgett et al., U.S. Patent No. 1,968,618. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, 20, 23, and 24 have been amended by this response. Claims 1-4, 5-15, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 are patentable because the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the recited features of the claims.

Claims 1-4 and 5-15

Some of the recited features of amended independent claim 1 that are not disclosed by the cited references are “a plurality of motor driven electric fans mounted to the bearing housing” and “a logic controller coupled to the temperature sensor and operable to selectively operate each of the plurality of motor driven electric fans based on the temperature within the bearing housing.”

Neither reference cited by the Examiner discloses a plurality of motor-driven electric fans mounted to a bearing housing. Therefore, neither reference can disclose or suggest: “a logic controller coupled to the temperature sensor and operable to *selectively operate each of the plurality of motor driven electric fans* based on the temperature within the bearing housing,” as recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, the

cited references do not disclose all of the recited features of amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2-4 and 5-15 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 5-15 also are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24

Similarly, some of the recited features of amended independent claim 1 that are not disclosed by the cited references are: “mounting a plurality of fans on the bearing housing” and “adapting the logic controller to receive a signal from the temperature sensor and to operate at least one of the plurality of fans at various speeds in response to the signal received.” In addition, the cited references do not disclose or suggest: “means for mounting *a plurality of fans* within the housing” and “means for *variably controlling the plurality of fans* in correlation with the temperature discerned of the bearing element.”

As noted above, neither of the cited references discloses a plurality of fans. Therefore, the cited references cannot disclose or suggest: “mounting a plurality of fans on the bearing housing,” as recited in claim 17, or “means for mounting *a plurality of fans* within the housing,” as recited in claim 23. Thus, the cited references cannot disclose or suggest: “adapting the logic controller to receive a signal from the temperature sensor and *to operate at least one of the plurality of fans at various speeds in response to the signal received,*” also as recited in claim 17, or “means for *variably controlling the plurality of fans* in correlation with the temperature discerned of the bearing element,” as recited in claim 23.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 17 and 23 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 19, 20, and 24 depend from claims 17 and 23, respectively. Therefore, claims 19, 20, and 24 also are patentable over the cited references.

For all of these reasons, claims 1-3, 5-15, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Second Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldner, Jr. and Padgett et al., in view of Muller, U.S. Patent No. 4,806,832. Claim 16 has been amended by this response. Claim 16 depends from amended independent claim 1. For the reasons provided above, claim 1 is patentable over the Waldner and Padgett references. The Muller reference does not obviate the deficiencies of the Waldner and Padgett references in failing to disclose or suggest all of the recited features of claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 16 are patentable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 16 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, the Examiner allowed claims 26 and 27. The Applicants would once again like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 26 and 27.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2004



Ralph A. Graham
Reg. No. 47,607
FLETCHER YODER
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS
ALLEN-BRADLEY COMPANY, LLC
Patent Department/704P Floor 8 T-29
1201 South Second Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204
Attention: Mr. Alexander Gerasimow
Phone: (414) 382-2000